

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The written description portion of the specification, the abstract of the disclosure, and claims 1 and 3-9 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled, and claims 10-21 have been added. Claims 1 and 3-21 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 15 are independent. The objections and rejections are respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The specification has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.77(c), for consistency, and to correct any informalities. The abstract has been editorially amended for conformance with 37 CFR § 1.72(b).

Claims 1 and 3-9 have been amended to more fully comply with U.S. practice. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features previously presented in now-canceled claim 2. Claims 10-21 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention.

Entry of each of the amendments is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Achelpohl and Elia

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,816,163 to Achelpohl et al. (hereinafter "Achelpohl") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,213,044 to Elia et al. ("Elia").

The rejection of claims 1-9 under § 103(a) based on Achelpohl in view of Elia is respectfully deemed to be obviated. The combined disclosures of Achelpohl and Elia would not have rendered obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

As indicated above, claim 1 has been amended to define a process that includes in pertinent part

rotating the first roller to transfer the solvent from the blade chamber onto the first roller components that are to be cleaned by removing ink therefrom and to transfer the removed ink and solvent from the cleaned roller to the blade chamber; and

successively establishing communication between the cleaned roller and an adjoining roller of the plurality of rollers, rotating the cleaned roller and the adjoining roller to transfer the solvent from the blade chamber onto the rotating rollers to remove ink from the adjoining roller and to transfer the removed ink and solvent from the cleaned adjoining roller to the blade chamber until all of the rollers are cleaned.

In instant claim 1, the process includes cleaning each roller in succession. That is, a first roller (e.g., a screen roller) is kept in contact with the ink blade chamber. At that point, however, no other roller is in contact with the first roller. After having cleaned the first roller sufficiently, a second roller (e.g., an ink transfer roller) is brought into

contact with the first roller. Except for the first roller, no other roller is then in contact with the second roller. After having cleaned the second roller, a third roller can be brought into contact with the second roller (which is in contact with the first roller) in order to clean the third roller, and so on. By virtue of Applicants' claimed process, a more effective cleaning of all of the rollers is achieved.

The combined disclosures of Achelpohl and Elia do not teach all of Applicants' claim features. Achelpohl simply teaches rotating a screen roller in order to add turbulence to the solvent. By doing this, the cleaning of the ink chamber is improved. Consequently, only the screen roller is cleaned. Elia teaches placing a transfer roll into a thrown-on position, which causes the cleaning fluid to be transferred to each roller between the transfer roll and the web. Therefore, according to Elia's disclosure, all of the rollers are cleaned simultaneously. That is not Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Furthermore, there is no teaching in either Achelpohl or Elia that would have led one to select the references and combine them in a way that would produce the process according to claim 1 in which each roller is cleaned in succession.

Therefore, the combined disclosures of Achelpohl and Elia would not have rendered obvious the invention defined by any of Applicants' presently pending claims 1 and 3-9.

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New claims 10-21 have been added to further define the scope of protection sought for Applicants' invention. New claims 10-21 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance. If the examiner believes that an interview might expedite prosecution, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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